



NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

the marquee • volume 16 no. 2

Winter 1990

Meeting Planned For Manhattan

'Sharing Kansas Theatre' Is 1990 Convention Theme

Convention plans are just about in place for the 1990 AKT Convention in Manhattan, Feb. 16-18. Built around the theme, "Sharing Kansas Theatre," the convention will emphasize the opportunity to swap ideas and "war stories" about what **has** worked—and what **hasn't** worked—for member theatres during the past year; the chance to learn from each other and the time to have fun together, according to convention chair, **Philip Kinen**.

Kinen has taken the evaluation sheets turned in at last year's convention in Hutchinson and incorporated many of the members' suggestions in plans for the Manhattan convention.

"For example," he said, "one of the major complaints listed was the fact that the convention was too 'structured'—because of all of the planned activities, no time was left for members to just visit with each other. This year, we've tried to alleviate that by leaving all of Saturday evening open, so that members can renew old acquaintances informally.

"We've also planned fewer, but longer, workshops in response to members' requests for time for more in-depth consideration of the workshops' particular topics."

Convention Hotel

Convention headquarters is the University Inn at 17th & Anderson in Manhattan, literally at the front gate of Kansas State University. Convention activities will take place in both the University Inn meeting rooms and Nichols Hall on the KSU campus.

"Another of the recurring comments in last year's evaluations concerned the distance from the hotel to the meeting site. This year, it is possible literally to park your car Friday and not have to get in it again until you leave on Sunday," Kinen said. "Someone with a good arm could stand at the front door of the hotel and hit both Nichols Hall and the attractions of Aggieville with a rock." (Local authorities, however, discourage that sort of thing.)

Housing arrangements must be made separately from the convention registration. To reserve a room, contact the University Inn at 1-800-962-0014. The convention room rate is \$43 per night, single or double occupancy.

Convention Registration

Registration begins at 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16, in the hotel lobby. The registration booth will be manned until 7 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

Workshops begin at 3:30 Friday afternoon with "How To Use the Kansas K-12



Manhattan's University Inn
1990 Convention Headquarters

Curriculum Guide," by **Jeanne Klein**, Children's Theatre Chair, and Kinen, who is also AKT's Secondary Schools Chair-Elect. An AKT committee has spent more than a year developing certification guidelines for drama/theatre teachers in state elementary schools, and this workshop will provide an explanation of one facet of the results of their efforts.

Running concurrently will be a grant writing workshop by John Biggs, executive director of the Manhattan Arts Council. With more and more members becoming involved in writing grant applications, and with more and more complicated forms and regulations to contend with, this workshop will prove to be a valuable experience for both experienced grant writers and novices in theatre financial management.

Initial Division Meetings

Another complaint last year was the fact that division members were not scheduled to meet formally until the convention was almost over, limiting the chances for networking and interchanging ideas. To correct this, Kinen has scheduled an initial division meeting for 5 p.m. Friday. This will give members a chance to get acquainted within their division and introduce their particular interest or program. Since dinner Friday is "on-your-own," the timing of the division meetings is not a coincidence: division members are encouraged to continue discussions over dinner. (With some advance notice, the dining room staff at the hotel will be happy to push

tables together to accommodate groups, or Aggieville has a number of interesting restaurants which can handle groups.)

The convention reconvenes at 7 p.m. with the opening ceremonies and annual business meeting reports. At 8 p.m., Marsha McFarland, associate professor, Extension 4-H, at KSU, will offer tips on setting goals for both organizations and individuals.

McFarland comes highly recommended by the KSU Theatre Department for whom she led a successful goal-setting retreat earlier this year. She has developed workshops throughout the country in group dynamics, interpersonal communications, teamwork, decision-making and building self-esteem, working with such diverse groups as educators, bankers, chambers of commerce and youth groups.

Continuing with Friday night's activities, at 9 p.m., an open forum featuring the AKT Board of Directors will explore the topic: "Planning a New Decade of Kansas Theatre," allowing members the opportunity to bring up problems, ideas and suggestions to assist the board in planning AKT's future direction in the 90s.

The Kansas Character

The formal opening session will close with a special presentation of **Norman Fedder's** "The Kansas Character," a look at some of the historical notables who made this state what it is, featuring AKT members in the roles of James Henry Lane, John J. Ingalls, Mary Ellen Lease,

(Continued on page 4)

AKT Members Are Eligible For SW Bell Grants

The 1990 Kansas Arts Excellence Program is Southwestern Bell Foundation's way of saying the Kansas arts community is important to the state, its people and its businesses.

In cooperation with the **Association of Kansas Theatre** and the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas, Southwestern Bell Foundation is offering the program to support theatres and local art agencies.

Arts Excellence grants totaling \$80,000 from Southwestern Bell Foundation are being offered in three categories: Arts Council Educational Projects, Community Theatre Developmental Projects and Theatrical Production Underwriting.

Arts Excellence grants will be awarded based on local cultural needs, the quality of a sponsoring group's past activities, opportunity for local promotions and grant availability.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial before May 30.

Criteria for all applicants

- Must be located within Southwestern Bell Telephone's Kansas service area.
- Must have a board of directors comprised of local citizens.
- Must have existed for a least one year before requesting a grant.
- Must be financially solvent.

- Must have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status under the code of the Internal Revenue Service, or qualify as a government instrumentality.
- Must meet specific criteria listed under category description.

Grant requests must include the following:

- Previous year's financial report or audit.
- Current operating budget.
- Playbills or programs from at least two previous productions or activities.
- Completed standard budget page (provided with grant application form).
- Proof of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status or government instrumentality.

Grant Application Guidelines

A completed application must be returned to the applicant's Southwestern Bell Telephone Community Relations Manager by **March 15**. Only one application per category will be accepted.

Evaluation

Within 90 days following the completion of a funded project or production, grant recipients must submit a written evaluation of the event along with a financial report, playbill or program, attendance summary and samples of advertising and media coverage.

Failure to submit evaluation will cause

organization to be ineligible for future grants.

Community Theater Developmental Projects

Total grant money available: \$10,000

Category Guidelines:

- Applicant must be a member of the **Association of Kansas Theatre** (college and professional theaters are not eligible).
- Applicants must meet the following definition of a community theater: "A duly constituted theater, comprised of performers from different walks of life, with its main focus and purpose being theatrical performances."
- Requests for capital improvements such as equipment and building projects will not be considered.
- If project includes a workshop, seminar or professional appearance, facilitators and speakers must be identified.
- Requests must fit one of the following three project areas:

A. Artist in Residence—allows a community theater to bring in a director, designer, costumer, playwright, musical director, choreographer or professional actor/actress for the purpose of upgrading the quality of production and teaching the working members of the theater group new techniques in some aspect of production.

B. Project Assistance/Development—allows a community theater to launch, improve or expand a supplemental theatrical program such as a children's theater, senior adult theater, readers' theater or an experimental theater program.

C. Technical/Management Assistance—allows a community theater to hire a consultant in theater management to help set goals and objectives, develop appropriate bylaws or establish a financial accounting system or develop more effective methods for recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Theatrical Production Underwriting

Total grant money available: \$50,000

Category Guidelines:

- Must be an amateur theater organization.
- Grant money must be used to support a theatrical production designed for public attendance.

Application forms, brochures and additional information about the Southwestern Bell Foundation Arts Excellence Program can be obtained by calling the Southwestern Bell Telephone Community Relations Manager in your area, or from the AKT Central Office.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

For a day and a half last August, the AKT Board of Directors met and discussed the status and future of this association. We talked at length at the Cottage House Hotel in Council Grove, a community known for such historical events as the signing of the Santa Fe Trail treaty, and General Custer camping out under a very large elm tree. This hotel and surrounding landmarks provided a perfect setting to relax and contemplate the future of the Association of Kansas Theatre.

We all felt we were in the midst of a major change in this organization, and we were both apprehensive and excited by the predicament. Many changes have occurred recently, leading us to our current condition. In the last five years, we have had three executive directors. Our AKT Board has varied considerably and is on the verge of another major change. Some of the so-called "old guard," friends and colleagues instrumental in establishing and sustaining AKT, took on new opportunities in other states. As a result of these and other factors, many people were asking:

What is AKT, and why does it exist?

To begin the process of answering these and other cultural questions, we examined the original goals in our constitution. Our first goal is, "to put theatre people in touch with one another for mutual growth and support." We discussed at length how you do this, and how you do it well. Then we brainstormed what might happen if we kept the major goals of the organization, but devised a totally new organizational structure, which would help us best meet these goals. This led to the development of an ideal plan, both short-term and long-term for this organization.

A little over a month later, **Phil Kinen** joined the Board and was appointed chair of the 1990 convention. Even though Phil did not attend the Council

Grove retreat, one of his first ideas for a convention theme was, "Sharing Kansas Theatre." In this theme, Phil expressed a notion which runs throughout this organization, and articulates one of our major reasons for being. With wonderful assistance from people in Manhattan and the AKT Board, Phil has developed a convention program which is refreshingly new and provides the type of interaction this organization needs most.

We must decide as a group what AKT is and why it exists. This is why there is a convention in Manhattan in February, and it is why you should be there. Not only will you have a hand in shaping the present and future of this organization, but you will also be exposed to quality theatre productions and informative workshops. We need you to be a part of this collaborative event, to help us celebrate and evaluate where we are, and to help us determine where we should be going.

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AKT Committee Drafts Drama/Theatre Guidelines

The *Kansas K-12 Drama/Theatre Guidelines for Curriculum Planning and Program Development Resource Manual* is nearing completion by the AKT Curriculum Committee composed of **Jeanne Klein** (facilitator, Kansas University Theatre for Young People), **Jeannie Averill** (Lawrence High School), **Sheryl Bryant** (Theatre for Young America, Overland Park), **Sally Six Hersh** (West Junior High School, Lawrence), **Phil Kinen** (Pioneer Trail Junior High School, Olathe), and **Margaret McClatchey** (Shawnee Mission North High School).

This committee has been working diligently for the past year in creating a comprehensive curricular resource to be used by elementary and secondary teachers and administrators, drama/theatre specialists, and community theatres who want to start or strengthen their drama/theatre programs.

Committee members will be discussing this document at the AKT Convention in Manhattan for anyone interested in learning how to implement it in their schools and community theatres.

AKT will be receiving a "flow-thru" grant of \$2,000 from the Kansas Arts Commission for creating this K-12 Drama/Theatre Curriculum in helping to make drama/theatre basic to Kansas education. This grant money is part of the Arts in Basic Education Implementation Grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. The money will be used to pay a small honoraria and travel expenses to committee members for monthly meetings and to cover other expenses incurred throughout the year's progress.

The Kansas Drama/Theatre Curriculum Guide will be printed and disseminated to all 304 public school districts by the Kansas State Department of Education. Those who wish to secure a copy of this valuable resource should contact Ray Linder, Art/Music Specialist, KSDE, 120 East 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66612 or phone (913) 296-4932.

Here are the contents of this Drama/Theatre Resource Guide:

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by **Jeanne Klein**
Children's Theatre Chair

Drama Therapists Plan To Organize Midwest Region

Dear Drama Therapy Enthusiast:

In response to the growing interest throughout North America in our field and the existence of strong regional groups in the East and West, board member Amelita Mandingo of the National Association of Drama Therapy has asked me to organize *the Midwest Region* into a conference for the purposes of communication, education, and advocacy.

To do so, we are holding an organizational meeting in Chicago:

Date: Saturday, February 24, 1990

Place: Wabash Campus
of Columbia College
623 S. Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

(In the Loop area)

5th Floor Faculty Lounge

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon;
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We welcome you to join us - along with all other people interested in the field whether present members of NADT or not - in the states and provinces of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, Ontario, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Help us make the Midwest region a powerful and significant force in the profession and the nation.

Sincerely yours,
Norman J. Fedder, Ph.D., RDT

For further information concerning Drama Therapy, contact Dr. Fedder at:

Speech Department - Nichols Hall 129

Kansas State University 66506-2301

Telephone: Office: (913) 532-6875

Home: (913) 539-7947

Contributors

Thanks to the following members who have demonstrated their support for AKT by becoming Contributing Members:

FRIENDS

Jackie Hinton Twink Lynch
Atchison Topeka

Charley Oldfather
Lawrence

CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Tyler Philip John Kinen
McPherson Lenexa

Karen Seaberg
Atchison

For information concerning how you can become a Contributing Member, contact the AKT Central Office at 316-685-9306.



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Convention...

(Continued from page 1)

William Allen White, Carry Nation, and J.R. Brinkley, among others.

Following the performance, a traditional afterglow will be held in the hotel meeting room area, providing another chance for informal socializing among members.

Saturday Workshops

Activities resume at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning with a "Playcreating" workshop led by **Norman Fedder**, KSU playwriting instructor. While, as the title implies, the workshop will have a variety of elements that would be useful to neophyte playwrights, its main emphasis will be on creative dramatics techniques.

Technicians will be interested in attending the "Costume Arts" workshop conducted by **Marta Gilberd**, KSU Theatre's costumer, and musical theatre enthusiasts will be attracted to the workshop in that specialty put on by the Opening Night Theatre Company of Manhattan.

Managers and community theatre board members won't want to miss **Rick Von Feldt's** presentation on "Inside-Out Marketing". Von Feldt's management workshop received a great deal of praise in the Hutchinson convention evaluations (remember the "green M&M's?"), and he volunteered to make another presentation this year.

All three of these workshops begin at 9 a.m.

At 10:30, AKT executive director **John A. Gedraitis** will continue the marketing theme with "Make Friends with the Media," a nuts-and-bolts practical approach to getting a production publicized.

Good

Following an on-your-own lunch break, the KSU Theatre Department will present a special production of "Good", an emotional look at religious prejudice and homosexuality in the concentration camps of 1939 Germany.

Because extra seats will be released to KSU for sale February 2, the AKT board encourages early registration to alleviate

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Ideas Listed For 'Theatre In Our Schools' Month

In the last issue of the **MARQUEE**, **Sheryl Bryant** announced that the American Alliance for Theatre and Education had designated this March as "Theatre In Our Schools" Month and asked for AKT members' support in celebrating this event. The following is a "dream list" of suggestions which organizations or classrooms could use for ideas as to how to celebrate the event.

- Resolutions passed by legislature, county government and mayors
- "Adopt a Kid for the Theatre" - high school drama club members, theatre professionals, service club members - anyone - could be encouraged to take a "little brother or sister" to the theatre.
- University, professional, community or high school performing arts groups could open their dress rehearsals or special performances with critique sessions to school groups.
- Partner schools with professional theatres in a mentor agreement
- Present a special mini-performance/reception in honor of local theatre educators and students.
- Put announcements of *Theatre in Our Schools Month* in all programs and play bills.
- Present "Careers in Theatre" symposiums at more than one location.
- Ask the state museum to sponsor an exhibit of theatrical costumes.
- Host a statewide theatre festival that brings professional, community and students of theatre together for workshops and performances.
- Use the time for theatre advocacy projects.
- If you have an Artist-In-Residence, ask him or her to organize special projects for the month. Consider hiring an Artist-In-Residence during *Theatre in Our Schools Month* if you do not have one.
- Turn the lunchroom into a special exhibit or performing space for the week.
- Coordinate a children's theatre with the local libraries.
- Encourage all teachers in every department to involve theatre within their lesson plans, such as a creative drama enactment of a social studies lesson.
- Develop *Theatre in Our Schools Month* buttons, t-shirts, and fliers on the theatre opportunities within your school or community.
- Ask all children to participate in at least one creative activity during the week. Possibly a field trip could be arranged or someone from a local theatre could be invited to speak or give a demonstration.
- Involve parents in school theatre activities as well as community artists or arts organizations.
- Depending on the philosophy of school districts, a contest could be arranged for theatre activities.
- Sponsor a statewide student playwrighting contest and present a staged reading of the winning play.
- Develop street theatre activities for urban areas.
- Host spot theatre workshops on all theatre art forms in malls etc.
- Celebrate with Beaux-Arts Ball.
- Hold multi-cultural theatre celebrations.
- Plan a School Board/Faculty Show.
- Arrange to take a performance to nursing homes, Senior Centers, and service clubs.
- Invite the photography or art club to come into a rehearsal to take pictures or sketch actors for an exhibit later.
- Set up a "slide show" that runs continuously showing theatre for students.
- Sponsor an after school "master class" for students taught by members of the drama club.
- Plan a lecture-demonstration of various theatrical forms for presentations at assemblies, the public library, community organizations, etc.
- Develop projects and performances for public spaces - museums, state office buildings, etc.
- Tour a performance or exhibit to elementary schools, community groups, or public places (malls, bank lobbies, schools, senior citizen centers, libraries, etc.)
- Develop a cooperative project with the local media to produce, for example 1) a student videotape or film, 2) specially aired television/radio/newspaper features, 3) a radio drama series, 4) a series of interviews on theatre education issues, 5) a special newspaper supplement on theatre education.

- Open theatre classes or regular rehearsals to "nonarts" students for a day.
- Exchange performances with other area schools.
- Sponsor special field trips to the theatre.
- Invite "theatre" alumni to return for a reception as guest performers/exhibitors or as special speakers.
- Develop a local celebration involving the entire community by obtaining a declaration from the mayor and/or school board and initiating a community planning task force to make preparations.
- Organize a theatre festival within a school or with the community arts council.
- Host lunch hour performances/exhibits.
- Publish a community arts calendar of all events being presented during the month.
- Interview community people involved and supportive of theatre and publish these interviews in the school paper or local newspaper.
- Approach the local service clubs regarding theatre scholarships which could be announced during the month.
- Encourage school newspapers to highlight *Theatre in Our Schools Month* activities in particular.
- Hold a Saturday morning session in creative drama for young children. Drama club members could conduct sessions. It might be possible for high school students to go the Day Schools and do sessions.
- Volunteer a lunch-time performance at a local business.
- Ask administrators to take part in theatre classes.
- Have theatre faculty and administrators do group discussions/interviews on the radio on topics such as "the role theatre plays in the total education of students."
- Ask businesses to put *Theatre in Our Schools Month* on their marquees.



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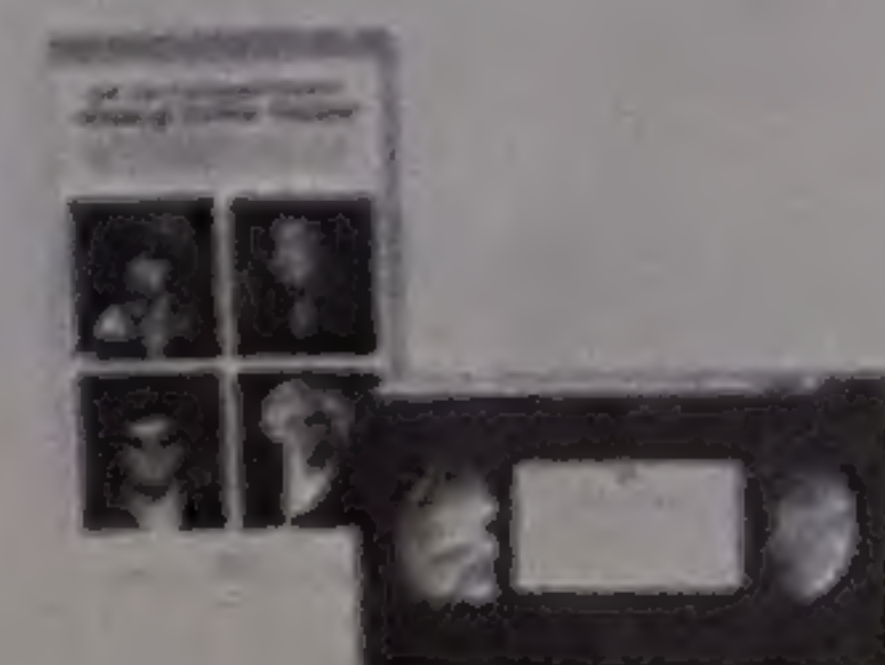
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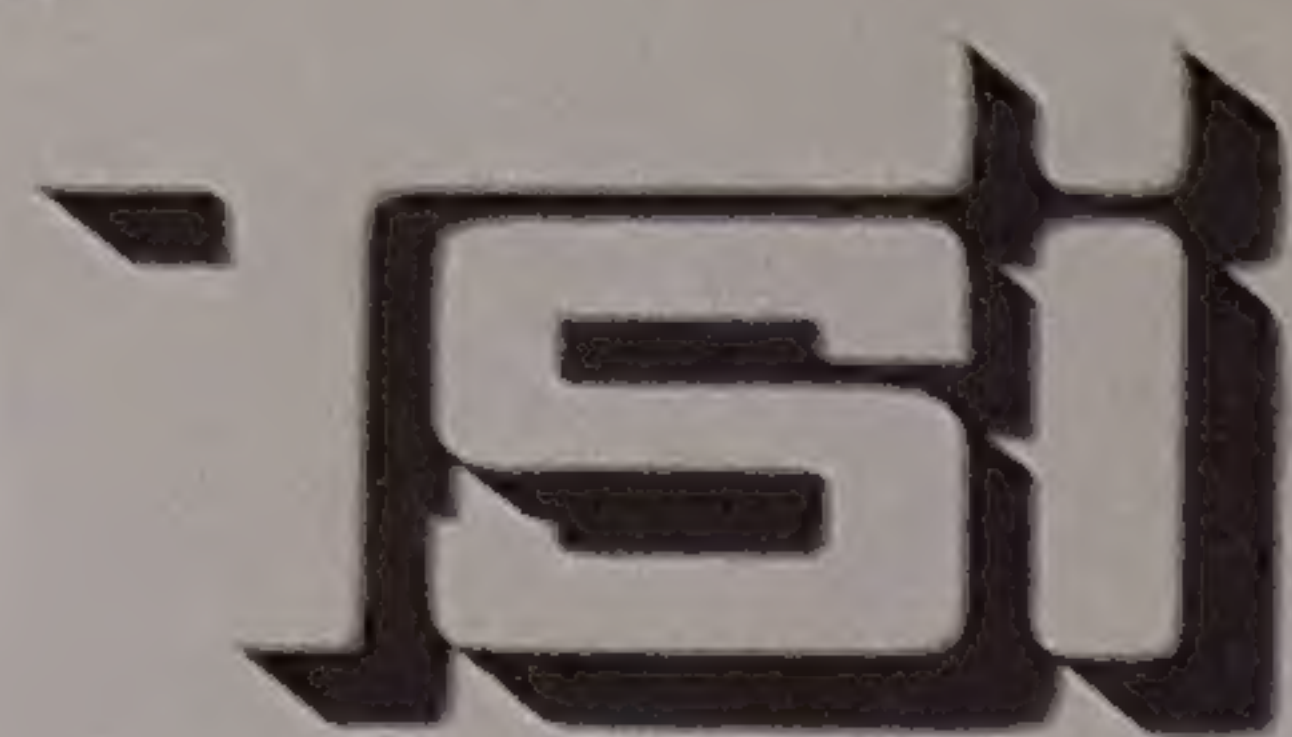
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◆ Have You Renewed
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For 1990 Yet?

Convention...

(Continued from page 4)
problems in having the best seats available for AKT members.

Colin Anderson

At 3:30 p.m., Colin Anderson, senior lecturer and head of the theatre department at Stuart University, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., Australia, and currently a visiting professor at Washburn University, and John Hunter, AKT president-elect, will discuss similarities between university theatres in Australia and the United States, stressing the value to all parties of exchange programs in the arts.

Anderson came to this country as a participant in the "Arts in Education" program sponsored by the Kennedy Center. He served as Hunter's host when John was a visiting lecturer at various Australian universities last June.

The workshops will close with two sessions beginning at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Harold Nichols, chairman of the KSU Department of Speech, will offer guidance in play analysis, and Ann Woodmansee, a member of the Manhattan Civic Theatre, will discuss "People Management".

Following the workshops, members will be free to have dinner with friends, visit or explore Manhattan on their own for the rest of the evening. An afterglow in the hotel, beginning at 10:30 p.m., caps the evening's official program schedule.

Sunday Activities

Sunday morning, individual divisions will reconvene for their final division meeting. At 11 a.m., the convention closes

with the annual awards banquet and closing ceremonies.

"By separating the annual meeting and the awards banquet," Kinen said, "we were able to devote more time at the dinner to honoring the achievements of our members — another suggestion from last year's evaluations."

One of the new wrinkles Kinen has added to this year's convention is the appeal to member theatres to bring photos, brochures, posters, etc., to display in Manhattan and promote themselves, generating an interchange of ideas among participants. Display space in the Nichols Hall lobby is free, but members should reserve a table in advance by calling either Kinen at 913-492-8964 or Gedraitis at the AKT Central Office, 316-685-9306. Supplier members are also encouraged to participate.

Class AKT

The popular "Class AKT" booth will also be set up in the hotel lobby, offering a wide assortment of AKT souvenirs and memorabilia at popular prices — sweat-shirts, coffee mugs, playing cards, tote bags, note cards, and the AKT commemorative print.

Sweatshirts will be royal blue this year, with the wheat motif so popular last year in gold lettering across the front. T-shirts, which were virtually absent last year, have also returned, thanks to requests in the Hutchinson evaluations.

VISA and MasterCard will be honored for all "Class AKT" purchases, as well as for registration and banquet charges.



1990



CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (day) _____

Theatre Affiliation _____

NOTE: Convention registrants are required to be current members of AKT. If you have not renewed your membership for 1990, this is the excellent time to do so. Please use the application form on page 6. EXCEPTION: ONE OFFICIAL representative of an AKT Organizational Member may attend the convention without being an Individual Member. All other fees must be paid though.

The basic registration fee (\$45.00) entitles you to attend all convention meetings, workshops, productions, and afterglow parties. Attendance at the Sunday noon Brunch/Awards Ceremony (\$13.00) is billed separately.

FEES:

Registration\$45.00

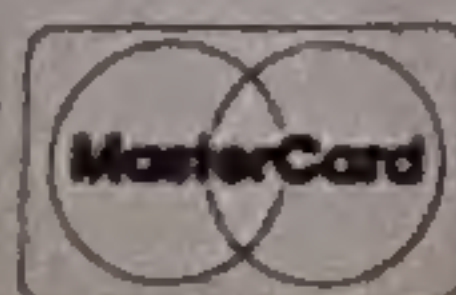
Sunday Brunch\$13.00

AKT Membership (if applicable)

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Please make check payable to AKT)

Remember: You may also use your VISA or MasterCard for both registration and membership fees.



(Circle One)

Card # _____ Expires _____

To make reservations at the Convention Hotel, contact: **The University Inn, 17th & Anderson, Manhattan, KS 66502, 1-800-962-0014.** The Convention Room Rate is \$43.00 per night.

Return to: **AKT CENTRAL OFFICE, 949 Parklane, #332, Wichita, KS 67218**
Pre-registration Deadline — Monday, February 12, 1990

Marquee

Marquee is published monthly as a membership service of the Association of Kansas Theatre, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles about their work, special interests, honors/awards, or issues of concern to the general membership.

The mention of a product, service, publication, conference, workshop, meeting, etc., in *Marquee* does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship, nor is it an indication of quality by *Marquee* or the AKT unless specifically stated.

Marquee is a publication of the AKT Central Office, 949 Parklane, Suite #332, Wichita, KS 67218. Telephone: (316) 685-9306.

John A Gedraitis
Executive Director/Editor

Have You Renewed For 1990?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Memberships are valid

September 1 to August 31

of each year

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Categories of Membership

Individual

Regular	\$18
Student/Senior	\$10

Organizational

Small (Budget: Under \$5,000/yr)	\$35
Medium (Budget: \$5,000-\$9,999/yr)	\$40
Large (Budget: Over \$10,000/yr)	\$70

Contributing

Contributors	\$50- \$99
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Benefactors	\$5000 and up

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Division Affiliation (check one)

- ☐ Children's Theatre
☐ Community Theatre
☐ Professional Theatre
☐ Secondary School Theatre
☐ University/College Theatre

Mail this application with your check to:

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(316) 685-9306

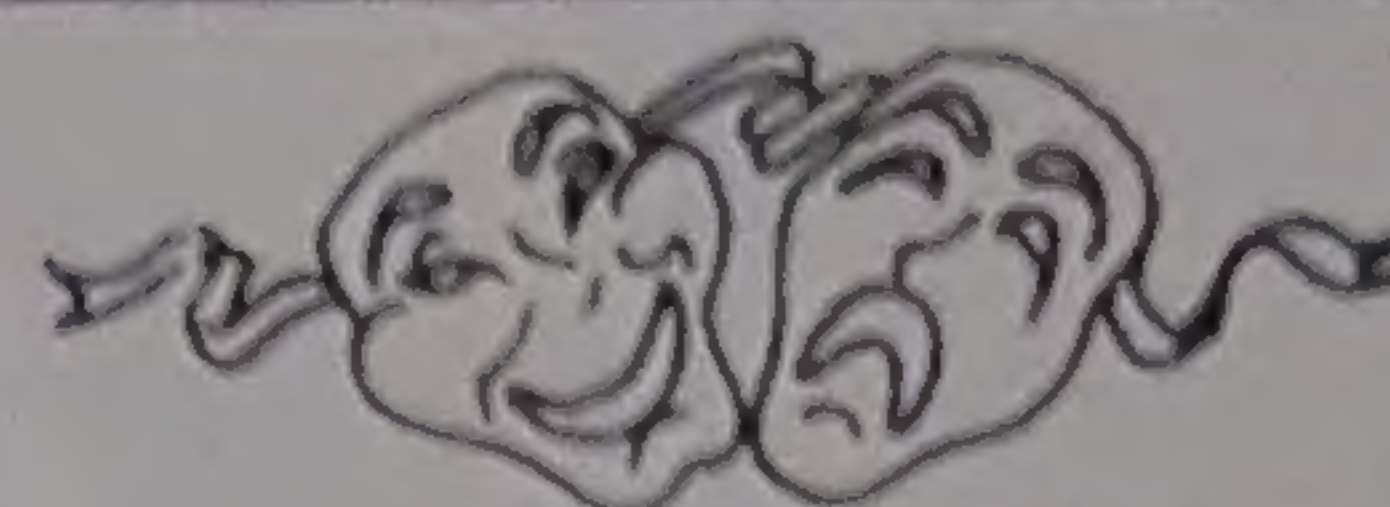
Marquee Miscellany

John Stefano, former AKT President, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Shakespeare Society. Stefano, former Director of Theatre at Emporia State University, is presently serving as chairman, Department of Theatre, at Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.

Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) has recommended Marcia Laing Golden, of Goodland, Kansas, for appointment to the temporary independent commission established to review NEA Grant-Making Procedures.

Golden is immediate past president and currently serving on the executive board of the Association of Community Arts Agencies of Kansas, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies.

Additionally, she has a seat on the Advisory Board of the Goodland Arts Council and The University of Kansas School of Fine Arts. A former member of the Board of Advisors of the Kansas Arts Commission, Governor Hayden recently appointed Golden to the Governor's Council on the Arts Commission.



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AKT is supported in part by the
Kansas Arts Commission and the
National Endowment for the Arts

MARQUEE has been underwritten by a generous grant from



**Southwestern Bell
Foundation**